

UPDATED INFORMATIVE DIGEST

Amendments to the Area Designations for the State Ambient Air Quality Standards, Including Amendments due to Changes in Air Basin Boundaries

Sections Affected: Amendments to the California Code of Regulations (CCR), Title 17, section 60201 through 60209, pursuant to section 39608 of the Health and Safety Code.

Background: On November 21, 1996, the California Air Resources Board (Board) adopted amendments to the affected sections of the CCR, Title 17, as initially proposed in the staff report entitled: "Proposed Amendments to the Area Designations for State Ambient Air Quality Standards, Including Proposed Amendments due to Changes in Air Basin Boundaries, and Proposed Maps of Area Designations for the State and National Ambient Air Quality Standards," (November 1996). The adopted amendments are summarized in the sections below.

Amendments to the Area Designations

(CCR, Title 17, sections 60201 through 60209)

Based on the designation criteria specified in CCR, Title 17, sections 70300 through 70306 the Board must designate areas as attainment, nonattainment, or unclassified for each of the nine pollutants with State standards. The Board adopted the original area designations in June 1989. As required by HSC section 39608, the Board reviews the area designations annually and updates them as new information becomes available.

Based on this year's annual review, the Board adopted redesignations for four pollutants -- ozone, carbon monoxide, PM10, and sulfates. The Board adopted ozone redesignations for Mono County-Great Basin Valleys Air Basin (nonattainment to nonattainment-transitional); carbon monoxide redesignations for El Dorado County-Lake Tahoe Air Basin (nonattainment to nonattainment-transitional), Placer County-Lake Tahoe Air Basin (unclassified to attainment), Tuolumne County-Mountain Counties Air Basin (unclassified to attainment), Butte County-Sacramento Valley Air Basin (nonattainment and unclassified to attainment), Placer County-Sacramento Valley Air Basin (unclassified to attainment), and the Sacramento County Portion of the Census Bureau Urbanized Area-Sacramento Valley Air Basin (nonattainment-transitional to attainment); PM10 redesignation for Calaveras County-Mountain Counties Air Basin (unclassified to nonattainment), and sulfates redesignation for the San Joaquin Valley Air Basin (unclassified to attainment).

In addition, the Board adopted amendments to the area designation regulations (CCR, Title 17, sections 60201 through 60209) to reflect two new air basins. Previously, regulations establishing these two new air basins were adopted by the Board at a public hearing on May 30, 1996. At this May 30 hearing, the Board adopted regulations dividing the former Southeast Desert Air Basin

into the Mojave Desert Air Basin and the Salton Sea Air Basin. These regulations were submitted to the Office of Administrative Law on March 7, 1996, and have been approved. To make the area designations consistent with the current air basins, the staff deleted all references to the Southeast Desert Air Basin and added the appropriate area designations for the Mojave Desert and Salton Sea Air Basins. Because these designations needed to be confirmed within the new air basins, the staff relied on current and historical air quality data, and emission inventory data. All but one area maintained their prior designations. A portion of Riverside County within the Mojave Desert Air Basin was formerly designated attainment for the State carbon monoxide standard, and it has been designated by the Board as unclassified as part of the Mojave Desert Air Basin due to lack of current and historical data in that portion of the county.